

TRU TeamWorks

April 14, 2005

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Feedback

Contact us with [feedback](#)
or submit your e-mail
address for updates.

By the Numbers

Shipments

Scheduled to arrive
04/17/05 - 04/23/05:

LANL - 1
INL - 9
RFETS - 12
RL - 2
SRS - 2

(subject to change)

total shipments
received as of 04/13/05:
3,510

Disposal

Waste disposed as of
04/13/05:

4,400 standard waste
boxes
1,454 ten-drum
overpacks
61,781 waste drums
27,789 cubic meters

The Big Story:



Rocky MMV

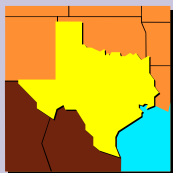
DOE's Rocky comes out a winner ...



Operations:

Happenings and highlights

News from around WIPP ...



Operations:

Texas tests response

Emergency responders to test skills in Fort Worth ...



Safety & Security:

Competitive edge

Mine rescue teams keep their edge ...



Working Smart:

Meet me at the monitor

Face-to-face meetings are not the only way
to communicate ...



Our Team:

Our team in action

WIPP team happenings, plus *Extra!*
coverage of the Mine Rescue competition



TRU TeamWorks is a biweekly e-newsletter for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant team



Did you know?

The 15,000 m³ of TRU waste at RFETS that came to WIPP represents about 3.5 percent of RFETS' total radioactive waste inventory.

RFETS also managed approximately 360,000 m³ of low-level and 65,000 m³ of low-level mixed radioactive wastes.

Rocky MMV

RFETS readies final shipment

You know the story: determination, desire and talent lead an individual to stunning success. Add teamwork to the mix, and once again, life imitates art. Later this month, the real "Rocky" will complete a performance truly worthy of an award: it will make it's final shipment of TRU waste to WIPP.

Jerry Long, vice president and project manager for Kaiser-Hill Company, LLC at RFETS, credits the successful completion of Rocky's TRU waste program to teamwork. "Rocky Flats' ability to complete this program years ahead of schedule is a tribute to the tireless efforts of our dedicated and talented workforce and the teamwork between Rocky Flats and WIPP. Our ability to ship record amounts of waste and lead the DOE complex in WIPP shipments couldn't have happened without these folks and the many others who support the WIPP shipping and disposal program."



TRU waste shipments from RFETS like the one shown above are scheduled to end this month.

Partnership for success

WTS Transportation Manager Kim Jackson explains the cooperative effort, "To support the RFETS 2006 closure target date, WIPP made RFETS shipments our number one priority. This translated into action: RFETS shipments were the first consideration when schedules were made and RFETS Waste Stream Profile forms were the first reviewed for approval. On the RFETS end, we at WIPP knew we could count on their team to fill those shipments. If we had a truck waiting at RFETS, they had a load of waste ready to go."

WIPP personnel also worked to open regulatory doors for RFETS waste. The WIPP teams worked to achieve NRC approval on two pivotal amendments to the TRUPACT-II SARP. Revision 19b in April of 2003, followed by Revision 20 in September 2004, paved the way for shipment of the final waste types in the RFETS TRU inventory.

In 2005, RFETS and WIPP accelerated shipping rates to 15 shipments (from 12) per week.

The cumulative impact was enormous: original projections for the final shipment of RFETS TRU waste to WIPP had been 2012. In 2001, the projected closure date was cut to 2006. The final shipment will be eight months ahead of the 2001 projection, and seven years earlier than originally planned.

RFETS and WIPP: separate paths

The end of TRU waste shipments to WIPP is not the end of work at RFETS. The site will continue on its closure mission with the demolition of five or so facilities, removal of utilities and asphalt, and site grading. Final closure is expected by October, but keeping to schedule, no later than December of this year.

WIPP continues its cleanup mission as well, with other sites stepping up to maintain shipment rates.

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**Remember the 3 Rs
of pollution
prevention:
Reduce, Reuse,
and Recycle**

Ways to Reduce:

- Take less
- Use less
- Think more
- Be proactive - let suppliers know you don't want non-recyclables
- Pass it on to others



Ways to Reuse:

- Use durable beverage containers
- Use cloth napkins or towels
- Refill bottles
- Reuse plastic utensils
- Donate old magazines or surplus equipment to non-profit agencies
- Reuse boxes
- Use empty jars for leftover food
- Purchase refillable pens

Ways to Recycle:

- Participate fully in WIPP's recycling program
- Recycle at home and on travel
- Support your local recycling programs
- Request curbside recycling
- Let your city and county agencies know that YOU support recycling

Remember, less IS better!

*Submitted by -
Celeste Marsh, WRES
Pollution Prevention (P2) Coordinator*

Disposal

**NMED performs Panel 3
certification inspection**

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) performed its certification inspection of Panel 3 in the WIPP underground on April 6. Waste disposal in this panel is planned for June. The group also viewed the Panel 1 closure wall, Panel 2 waste emplacement and Panel 4 mining operations. On the surface, the group toured the Parking Unit Area and the Waste Handling Building.



Steve Zappe (second from left) and Kate Lynnes (not pictured) of NMED's Hazardous Waste Bureau inspect Panel 3 for certification, April 6.



Steve Zappe and Kate Lynnes discuss Panel 3 continuous air monitors with WTS cognizant engineer, Ron Dickert (left).

**Supplement Analysis to WIPP
SEIS-II now available**

In 1997, DOE published the *Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Disposal Phase Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement*, or SEIS-II, documenting DOE analysis of the potential environmental impacts associated with disposing of transuranic wastes at WIPP.

DOE-NEPA regulations require DOE to periodically examine changes to WIPP site-wide operations to determine if there have been substantial changes to operations, significant new information or circumstances that would change the SEIS-II environmental impact analysis. The information is then made available in a supplement analysis.

DOE recently published a supplement analysis that examines changes to WIPP site-wide and transportation operations, as well as new information obtained since the preparation of the SEIS-II, and concludes that there has been no substantial change in the environmental impacts of WIPP operations as a result of those changes.

See the updated DOE analysis here: [Supplement Analysis for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Site Wide Operations](#)

WIPP is the only facility permitted to dispose of transuranic (TRU) wastes generated by U.S. Department of Energy defense activities. TRU waste is defined as waste that contains alpha-emitting radionuclides with atomic numbers greater than uranium (92) and half-lives greater than 20 years in concentrations greater than 100 nanocuries per gram of waste.

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IART team members are:

Mike Brown
Herb Cruickshank
Casey Gadbury
Dennis Hurtt
Ralph Smith

Ruben Carrasco
Jerry Golden
Kathy Hernandez
David Lewis
Bob Nieman
Happy Scheel
Todd Sellmer
Bobby St. John
Joe Willis

Fort Worth - put to the test

Experienced drivers hauling satellite-tracked shipments in Type B containers are WIPP's first line of transportation safety. To further ensure public safety along WIPP routes, members of WIPP's External Emergency Management group train first responders in corridor states and tribal lands to effectively respond in the event of an accident involving a TRU waste shipment. Fort Worth's emergency response teams will test their response skills to a simulated WIPP transportation accident next week.

While the External Emergency Management group primarily gives classroom instruction in characteristics of radiological shipments and incident command functions, members also work with states and tribes to plan and conduct WIPP-related emergency exercises within their jurisdictions. Large-scale exercises, such as the one that will play out in Tarrant County next Thursday, involve local, state, federal and volunteer organizations, and depending on location, tribal agencies.

At Texas's request, WIPP's Incident/Accident Response Team will also be deployed to the exercise. "These exercises are very beneficial for participants, because the basic concept can be used for any response, not just one involving a WIPP shipment," adds Lynn Eaton, manager, External Emergency Management.

Once contacted by a state, members of External Emergency Management help develop a credible scenario involving a TRU waste transporter. "Our main concern is that these exercises are realistic," says Eaton. "We want them to provide responders with actual situations they could encounter if they ever responded to such an accident."

Eaton says exercise planning and preparation takes about six months and is developed in phases:

1. Formulate exercise scope and identify capabilities to be demonstrated.
2. Develop a scene-specific scenario that defines specifics of the simulated incident.
3. Set a timeline for events to unfold at the scene. "Message injects" are added to the scenario to allow controllers to change, alter or correct ongoing situations.
4. Evaluators and Controllers (experts in their respective fields) attend Evaluator/Controller training where they learn to grade and evaluate emergency response capabilities.

Following the exercise, a final report is produced by the state and distributed to all participating agencies, highlighting strengths, weaknesses as well as areas for improvement.

More than 24,000 first responders have been trained along WIPP routes to date and 33 full-scale exercises conducted in nine states and on three tribal lands.



Photo of a 2002 WIPP Exercise in Georgia.

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WIPP Silver Team

Greg Sensibaugh
Edgar Keyser
David Ripley
Mike Proctor
Andy Cooper
Jamie Smith
Curtis Sanders III
Deena Cantrell



Click on the
team names to
view photos of
the WIPP Mine
Rescue teams
in action!



WIPP Blue Team

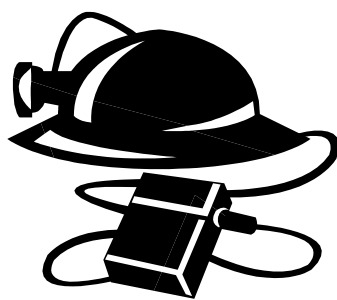
Gary Kessler
Joel Howard
David Sjomeling
Ben Zimmerly
Joe Baca
Nadine Kuhn
Jim Pearce

WIPP's mine rescue teams excel at competition

“You okay?” called out Blue Team Captain Gary Kessler as he checked each of his team members' breathing apparatus. “Okay!” responded each in turn. It was a final check before departing the fresh air station in the underground to find and render aid to people stranded and possibly injured as a result of an underground incident. Mine rescuers are trained to handle serious challenges, including mine stability, air quality and injuries, to name a few.

The scenario sounds dire, but fortunately this was just an exercise. WIPP's two all-volunteer mine rescue teams, the Blue Team and Silver Team, were among five area mine rescue teams to compete in the Southwestern Regional Mine Rescue Association's Mine Rescue Competition in Carlsbad last week.

The competition included a written test for team members to demonstrate their knowledge of mine gases, ventilation, survivor rescue, mine recovery and firefighting, as well as the field exercise. In the exercise, roped-off areas simulate the underground and the team is presented with numerous challenges and unforeseen circumstances. All of the teams' moves were watched by spectators, and closely scrutinized by the competition's judges.



Judging at these competitions is serious business, because in a real-life situation mistakes can cost lives. This competition's judges were made up of experts from the Mine Safety and Health Administration, the New Mexico Bureau of Mine Inspection and private industry, who know mine safety top to bottom. And in the end, the WIPP teams' hard work and training paid off.

WIPP teams or individuals placed in the top three in each of the four contests. The Silver Team placed second in the Field competition and third in the First Aid competition. In addition, Curtis Sanders scored a first place win in the Bench contest and Greg Sensibaugh took top honors in the Multi-Gas Instrument contest.

The Blue Team placed third in the Field competition and second in the First Aid competition. Its individual winners included Joe Baca's third place win in the Bench contest and Edgar Keyser's third place win in the Multi-Gas Instrument contest.

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WIPP milestones for the month of April

1999

WIPP celebrates Grand Opening. Former Energy Secretary Bill Richardson is keynote speaker.

2000

Los Alamos National Laboratory opens Carlsbad office.

2002

WIPP receives 25 shipments in one week, 12 from INL and 13 from RFETS.

Saving big bucks through virtual meetings

Face-to-face meetings are great, but they come with a price ... sometimes in the thousands of dollars. Now, an innovative new way to meet without travel costs or delays in mailing marked-up documents back and forth is available at WIPP.

Software called *Live Meeting* allows live, interactive meetings from any place, over the Internet using only a web browser and a minimum 28.8k connection with up to a thousand participants. Audio is provided over regular telephone lines. And the cost is the best part.



Judy Seal (WTS) has organized virtual meetings for many groups. She says the savings add up.

"Live Meeting web conferencing is provided free to WTS as a service through Washington Group International Information Technology," says Judy Seal, the WTS Live Meeting organizer. "Over the past year, 68 Live Meeting sessions have been attended by over 300 WIPP participants."

Here are a few examples of how it has been used successfully at WIPP.

L&M Technologies, Inc. used Live Meeting to conduct interactive document reviews of Central Characterization Project (CCP) procedures with participants from LANL and INL. L&M estimated the cost savings at over \$900 per document. Their estimated savings since December 2004 is \$7,200.

In December, a CCP manager conducted two training sessions for employees at the Nevada Test Site without leaving his office. Besides saving about \$800 in travel costs, he also saved about 12 productive work hours.

In August 2004, Washington Group sought to expand the use of Six Sigma and requested that Westinghouse Savannah River Company work jointly with WTS. This project was unique in that the team members were located in Carlsbad N.M. and the team leaders were located in Aiken, S.C. Team meetings were held each week for approximately 1.5 hours using Live Meeting, reducing travel time and expenses. The result was approximately \$12,000 in savings.

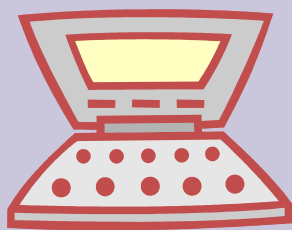
A web conferencing demonstration is available at your convenience and free web-based training is available through Live Meeting. To schedule a demonstration for your group, contact Judy Seal.

For more information about the Live Meeting, visit the web site at <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/FX010909711033.aspx>.

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Stay tuned ...

The WIPP logo and motto contests are still in the works. Stay tuned to *TRU TeamWorks* for further details as they develop.



Birthdays

Judy Lanier (WTS) - April 17

Submit your
birthday

[HERE](#)



WTS April service awards

5 years

Shawn McCormick
Marsha Webb
Kathy Littleton

15 years

Curtis Sanders
Jorge Martinez
Scott Cassingham
Troy Padilla
Jorge Alva
Joel Howard

30 years

Dennis Hofer



NCI awarded knowledge system prototype development contract with the NSA

NCI Information Systems, Inc. (NCI), announced that the Scientific & Engineering Solutions (SES) group has been awarded a \$35 million, multi-year contract in support of the National Security Agency's (NSA) Knowledge System Prototype (KSP) Development program. This prototype is the key element of NSA's overall Knowledge Management program and will provide the agency a dramatic improvement in its ability to transform data into information and knowledge.

In addition to Knowledge Management, NCI's SES group focuses on and provides world class capabilities in the innovative application of information technology and services for national security programs in the areas of software and systems engineering, enterprise solutions, and information assurance.

Work on this contract is slated to begin immediately.

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WIPP Blue Team

in action

Blue Team showed why they are among the best during the field competition.

1. Team members render first aid to a scenario victim.
2. Testing breathing apparatus before entering the "mine."
3. Consulting the mine map during the event.
4. Team briefing prior to tackling the problem.
5. Blue Team ready to assist.



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WIPP Silver Team

in action

Silver Team is all business as members put their skills to the test during the recent mine rescue competition.

1. Silver Team is ready to take the field.
2. Deena Cantrell supports team members during the field exercise.
3. Working the problem.
4. Team members walk through the "drift."
5. Pre-planning before entering the "mine" is key to team safety.

*Silver Team photos taken by
Melody Smith, WTS Safety and Health*



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